

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204117

71

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 EUR-12 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

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AF/W:TSMITH (DRAFT)

EB/GCP:SAHMAD (DRAFT)

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R 171656Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MR, ML, NG, UV, US

SUBJECT: REVERSE PREFERENCES

REF: (A) DAKAR 4738, (B) DAKAR 4942 (NOTAL),
(C) BAMAKO 2248 (NOTAL), (D) NOUAKCHOTT 1879 (NOTAL)

1. REFS A AND B CONFIRM SENEGAL'S INTENTION TO PHASE OUT
REVERSE PREFERENCES TO IMPORTS FROM EC. REF E REPORTS
THAT MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER AND UPPER VOLTA HAVE NOT
INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO ELIMINATE REVERSE PREFERENCES
TO THE EC AS PERMITTED BY THE LOME CONVENTION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 204117

2. DEPT BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD NOW BE USEFUL FOR ACTION

POSTS TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT AT ANY LEVEL DEEMED APPROPRIATE, USING FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS, TO EXPRESS USG REGRET AT REPORTED HOST GOVERNMENT DECISION TO CONTINUE TRADE PREFERENCES DISCRIMINATING AGAINST IMPORTS FROM US. APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE IN MANNER THAT AVOIDS ANY IMPLICATION OF RETALIATION.

3. REF D REPORTS THAT A DEMARCHE HAS RECENTLY BEEN MADE TO THE GIRM ON THIS SUBJECT AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE ANOTHER OFFICIAL APPROACH IS WARRANTED AT THIS TIME AS IT

WOULD EXAGGERATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE. HOWEVER, WHEN AN APPROPRIATE INTERNAL OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT SHOULD USE MATERIAL IN TALKING POINTS TO MAKE LOW KEY PRESENTATION ON THIS TOPIC TO GIRM OFFICIALS.

4. SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS ON REVERSE PREFERENCES:

A. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF YOUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO EXTEND, ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, REVERSE TRADE PREFERENCES TO COMMUNITY EXPORTS TO YOUR COUNTRY.

B. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REGRETS THIS REPORTED DECISION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST US EXPORTS TO YOUR COUNTRY.

C. WE ARE AWARE OF NO BENEFIT ACCRUING TO YOUR COUNTRY FROM THIS DECISION. BY ACCORDING PREFERENCES COUNTRIES IN FACT OFTEN DENY THEMSELVES THE BENEFITS OF BUYING FROM THE MOST COMPETITIVE SUPPLIERS.

D. WE ALSO NOTE THAT YOUR COUNTRY IS ONE OF A VERY SMALL MINORITY OF NATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT DECIDED TO ABOLISH REVERSE PREFERENCES. WE ARE MAKING SIMILAR CONTACTS ON THIS ISSUE IN THOSE FEW OTHER NATIONS WHICH INTEND TO CONTINUE TO EXTEND REVERSE PREFERENCES. (IF ASKED, THEY ARE MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, UPPER VOLTA.)

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PAGE 03 STATE 204117

E. WE BELIEVE YOUR DECISION TO DISCRIMINATE VOLUNTARILY AGAINST UNITED STATES TRADE IS INCONSISTENT WITH OUR INTENTION TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH YOUR COUNTRY INCLUDING OUR EFFORTS TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY AID FOR THE SAHELIAN NATIONS.

F. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE KNOWING THE BASIS ON WHICH YOU HAVE MADE YOUR DECISION. KISSINGER

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